AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

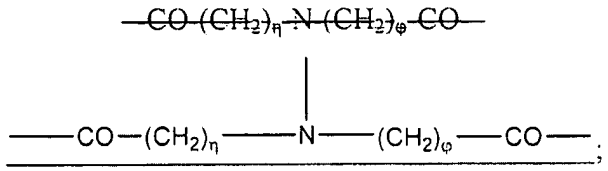
Please amend claims 1 and 16, without prejudice or admission, as set forth in the following Claim Listing. The Claim Listing presented below replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in this application.

Claim Listing:

Claim 1 (Currently amended): A compound which comprises:

(a) a peptide moiety comprising at least two peptide monomers,

(b) a linker moiety connecting the two peptide monomers and having the structure



(c) a spacer moiety having the structure

$$\text{-NH-(CH}_2\text{)}_\alpha\text{-[O-(CH}_2\text{)}_\beta\text{]}_\gamma\text{-O}_\delta\text{-(CH}_2\text{)}_\varepsilon\text{-Y-}$$

in which Y of the spacer moiety is CO attached to N of the linker moiety; and

(d) a water-soluble polymer moiety attached to the spacer moiety;

wherein α, β, γ, δ, and ε are each integers whose values are independently selected.

Claim 2 (Previously presented): The compound of claim 1, wherein

α is an integer, $1 \leq \alpha \leq 6$;

β is an integer, $1 \leq \beta \leq 6$;

ε is an integer, $1 \leq \varepsilon \leq 6$;

δ is 0 or 1; and

γ is an integer, $0 \leq \gamma \leq 10$.

Claim 3 (Original): The compound of claim 2, wherein $\gamma > 1$ and $\beta = 2$.

Claim 4 (Previously presented): The compound of claim 1 wherein

$\alpha = \beta = \varepsilon = 2$; and

$\gamma = \delta = 1$.

Claim 5 (Original): The compound of claim 1 wherein the water-soluble polymer moiety is a poly(ethylene glycol) moiety.

Claim 6 (Previously presented) The compound of claim 5 wherein the molecular weight of the poly(ethylene glycol) moiety is 20 KDalton or more.

Claim 7 (Original): The compound of claim 5, wherein the poly(ethylene glycol) moiety is linear.

Claim 8 (Original): The compound of claim 5, wherein the poly(ethylene glycol) moiety has a molecular weight from 20 to 40 KDalton.

Claim 9 (Original): The compound of claim 5, wherein the poly(ethylene glycol) moiety has polydispersity value (M_w/M_n) of less than 1.20.

Claims 10-11 (Canceled).

Claim 12 (Previously presented): The compound of claim 1, wherein each peptide monomer comprises no more than 50 amino acid monomers.

Claim 13 (Previously presented): The compound of claim 12, wherein each peptide monomer comprises between about 10 and 25 amino acid monomers.

Claim 14 (Original): The compound of claim 1, wherein the peptide moiety comprises one or more peptides which bind to erythropoietin-receptors.

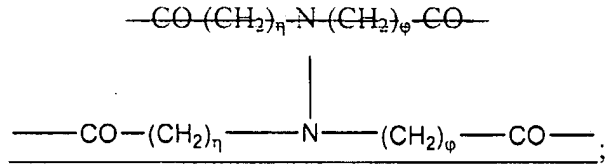
Claim 15 (Canceled).

Claim 16 (Currently amended): A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound and one or more pharmaceutically acceptable diluents, preservatives, solubilizers, emulsifiers, adjuvants or carriers,

wherein the compound comprises

(a) a peptide moiety comprising at least two peptide monomers,

(b) a linker moiety connecting the two peptide monomers and having the structure



(c) a spacer moiety having the structure

$$-NH-(CH_2)_\alpha-[O-(CH_2)_\beta]_\gamma-O_\delta-(CH_2)_\varepsilon-Y-$$

in which Y of the spacer moiety is a CO attached to N of the linker moiety, and

(d) a water-soluble polymer moiety attached to the spacer moiety

wherein α, β, γ, δ,and ε are each integers whose values are independently selected.

Claim 17 (Previously presented): The composition of claim 16, wherein

α is an integer, $1 \leq \alpha \leq 6$;

β is an integer, $1 \leq \beta \leq 6$;

ε is an integer, $1 \leq \varepsilon \leq 6$;

δ is 0 or 1; and

γ is an integer, $0 \leq \gamma \leq 10$.

Claim 18 (Original): The composition of claim 17, wherein $\gamma > 1$ and $\beta = 2$.

Claim 19 (Previously presented): The composition of claim 16 wherein

$\alpha = \beta = \varepsilon = 2$; and

$\gamma = \delta = 1$.

Claim 20 (Original): The composition of claim 16 wherein the water-soluble polymer moiety is a poly(ethylene glycol) moiety.

Claim 21 (Previously presented): The composition of claim 20 wherein the molecular weight of the poly(ethylene glycol) moiety is 20 KDalton or more.

Claim 22 (Original): The composition of claim 20, wherein the poly(ethylene glycol) moiety is linear.

Claim 23 (Original): The composition of claim 20, wherein the poly(ethylene glycol) moiety has a molecular weight from 20 to 40 KDalton.

Claim 24 (Original): The composition of claim 20, wherein the poly(ethylene glycol) moiety has polydispersity value (M_w/M_n) of less than 1.20.

Claims 25-26 (Canceled).

Claim 27 (Previously presented): The composition of claim 16, wherein each peptide monomer comprises no more than 50 amino acid monomers.

Claim 28 (Currently amended): The composition of claim 27, wherein each peptide monomer comprises between about 10 and 25 amino acid monomers.

Claim 29 (Original): The composition of claim 16, wherein the peptide moiety comprises one or more peptides which bind to erythropoietin-receptors.

Claim 30 (Canceled).

Claim 31 (Previously presented): The compound of claim 1, wherein

$\alpha = 2$; and

$\gamma = \delta = \beta = \varepsilon = 0$.

Claim 32 (Previously presented): The composition of claim 16, wherein

$\alpha = 2$; and

$\gamma = \delta = \beta = \varepsilon = 0$.

Claim 33 (Original): The compound of claim 5 wherein the poly(ethylene glycol) moiety comprises at least one monomeric poly(ethylene glycol) chain.

Claim 34 (Original): The compound of claim 33 wherein each poly(ethylene glycol) chain has a molecular weight from 20 to 40 KDaltons.

Claim 35 (Previously presented): The composition of claim 20 wherein the poly(ethylene glycol) moiety comprises at least one monomeric poly(ethylene glycol) chain.

Claim 36 (Original): The compound of claim 35 wherein each poly(ethylene glycol) chain has a molecular weight from 20 to 40 KDaltons.

Claim 37 (Previously presented): The compound of claim 5, wherein the poly(ethylene glycol) moiety comprises two monomeric poly(ethylene glycol) chains.

Claim 38 (Previously presented): The compound of claim 37, wherein each monomeric poly(ethylene glycol) chain has a molecular weight from 20 to 40 KDaltons.

Claim 39 (Previously presented): The compound of claim 37, wherein the two monomeric poly(ethylene glycol) chains are linked together through a lysine residue.

Claim 40 (Previously presented): The compound of claim 37, wherein the two monomeric poly(ethylene glycol) chains are linked together through a lysine amide.

Claim 41 (Previously presented): The composition of claim 20, wherein the poly(ethylene glycol) moiety comprises two monomeric poly(ethylene glycol) chains.

Claim 42 (Previously presented): The composition of claim 41, wherein each monomeric poly(ethylene glycol) chain has a molecular weight from 20 to 40 KDaltons.

Claim 43 (Previously presented): The composition of claim 41, wherein the two monomeric poly(ethylene glycol) chains are linked together through a lysine residue.

Claim 44 (Previously presented): The composition of claim 41, wherein the two monomeric poly(ethylene glycol) chains are linked together through a lysine amide.

Claim 45 (Canceled).

Claim 46 (Previously presented): The compound of claim 1, wherein

η is an integer $1 \leq \eta \leq 6$; and

φ is an integer $1 \leq \varphi \leq 6$.

Claim 47 (Previously presented): The compound of claim 46, wherein $\eta = \varphi = 1$.

Claim 48 (Previously presented): The compound of claim 1, wherein

(i) one or both peptide monomers comprise a lysine residue having an ε-amino group, and

(ii) one or both CO linkages of the linker moiety form an amide bond with the ε-amino group.

Claim 49 (Canceled).

Claim 50 (Previously presented): The composition of claim 16, wherein

η is an integer $1 \leq \eta \leq 6$; and

φ is an integer $1 \leq \varphi \leq 6$.

Claim 51 (Previously presented): The composition of claim 50, wherein $\eta = \varphi = 1$.

Claim 52 (Previously presented): The composition of claim 16, wherein:

(i) one or both peptide monomers comprise a lysine residue having an ε-amino group, and

(ii) one or both CO linkages of the linker moiety form an amide bond with the ε-amino group.